



Pacific Northwest Region
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
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News Release

Fire Safety for the Summer Season

June 24, 2013 – The 4th of July holiday and summer season is a great time to enjoy the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and surrounding areas. As the public prepares for the big holiday next week Gifford Pinchot National Forest would like to send out a reminder about the prohibited use or possession of fireworks of any kind on National Forest Lands.

"We would like to remind everyone that fireworks are prohibited on all federal lands and we ask all visitors to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to be extra careful with anything that could start a fire," said Deb Roy, Gifford Pinchot National Forest Fire Staff Officer. Fireworks at this time of year are a big concern for federal land management officials. Roy added, *"A seemingly harmless sparkler, as well as the bigger combustible devices like rockets and roman candles can start a fire, and we want all visitors to enjoy being out on their public lands without the threat of wildfires."*

Camp fire safety is crucial every summer. Never leave a campfire unattended and always make sure it is completely out before leaving. Leaving campfires unattended may result in a fine or having to reimburse costs associated with fire suppression. When a fire happens on National Forest lands the Forest Service commits resources to respond; costing taxpayers money.

While campfires in designated areas are currently allowed on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, some state and local departments are instituting restrictions. Please check with Forest, State or local agencies for current fire restrictions.

The public is encouraged to go out and enjoy their National Forest in a safe and responsible manner. Find more campfire safety information at <http://www.smokeybear.com/>.

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for the greatest good